

Identifying Elder Abuse

This playbook details the procedure for recognizing signs of elder abuse, including identification of various types and appropriate responses when abuse is suspected.

Step 1: **Awareness**

Increase your knowledge about elder abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual, financial abuse, and neglect. Learn the common signs associated with each type.

Step 2: **Observation**

Pay close attention to the elder's physical condition, emotional state, and overall behavior. Be vigilant for any sudden changes or patterns that match known signs of abuse.

Step 3: **Communication**

Talk to the elder in a safe and private setting. Gently ask about their well-being and listen carefully to their concerns or reluctance to speak about certain topics.

Step 4: **Documentation**

Keep a detailed record of any signs or disclosures of abuse. Document dates, times, descriptions, and any other relevant information that can substantiate concerns.

Step 5: **Reporting**

Report the suspected abuse to the appropriate authorities. Contact local adult protective services, law enforcement, or ombudsman programs for direction and assistance.

Step 6: **Support**

Offer support to the elder, ensuring they feel safe and understood. Connect them with community resources, counseling, and medical professionals as needed.

General Notes

Confidentiality

Respect the privacy of the elder and handle the situation with utmost confidentiality, following all relevant laws and regulations.

Follow-up

After reporting, keep in touch with the authorities to stay informed about the case, and continue to offer the elder emotional and social support.